159.

*SIR,*

London — III.

THE Committee appointed by the RETAIL SHOPKEEPERS of the Cities of *London*, *Weſtminſter*, the *Borough* of *Southwark*, and *Parts adjacent*, have again the Honour of addreſſing you, to acquaint you, that a Motion will be made in the Houſe of Commons about the middle of *February* next, for a Repeal of that partial Impoſt, the *Tax* on *Retail Shops*: previous to which period, you will be pleaſed to requeſt or inſtruct your Repreſentatives in Parliament to give that Support to the Motion, which may render it in the preſent Inſtance, ſucceſsful.

After the very decided part ſo many Cities, Boroughs, and Towns, throughout the Kingdom have already taken, in aid of the application to Parliament; the Committee cannot preſume any Argument or Reaſon will be wanting to induce them to continue the ſame legal and conſtitutional exertions in behalf of the Rights of a much-injured Body of Traders.

You will recollect, the preſent is no cauſe of Party or clamour for Power; it has been maintained in the Houſe of Commons by Gentlemen, whoſe connections were moſt intimate with Adminiſtration, upon the grounds of ſubſtantial Juſtice:——You will alſo remember, that the *Retail Traders* have never claimed any exemption from the Burthens of the State, but merely pleaded the Injuſtice of their being called on to contribute in a moſt unequal proportion to them. Above all, you muſt have obſerved, that the ſole Plea on which the Tax was impoſed, is now done away by Three Years Experience, which has effectually proved it to be not a Tax on the Public, but the Shopkeepers.

The Committee flatter themſelves, this will be the laſt Time they ſhall have any Occaſion to call forth your Aſſiſtance, after the Number of Members of the Houſe of Commons who appeared in behalf of the Shopkeepers, and the Opinion of others in their Favor, who were prevented attending on the Day the Queſtion was laſt agitated; there cannot be much doubt, if you think proper to further the Endeavours which are at preſent uſed in other parts of the Kingdom, and in which the Metropolis has in a

moſt

moſt unanimous and decided Manner taken the lead, to throw Conviction on the Minds of the Members compoſing the Legiſlature, that a Britiſh Houſe of Commons will be wanting in diſtributing Juſtice to the meaneſt of their Conſtituents.

When you have adviſed your Repreſentatives in Parliament, the Committee will be obliged to you to communicate the Information to them; and as ſome Places have wiſhed for a Form, the annexed may ſerve for a Plan to be altered, or not, as Circumſtances occur.

We have the Honour to be

Your obedient Servants,

THOMAS SKINNER
DAVID JENNINGS
JAMES PALMER
WILLIAM STOCK
JAMES BATE
JOHN NODIN
THOMAS DENHAM
WILLIAM SEYMOUR
JOHN RATRAY
FRANCIS THOMPSON
JOHN MABBERLY
JACOB BIRD
NATHANIEL CHILD
THOMAS VALLANCE
JOHN PHILLIPS
WILLIAM NANSON
JOSEPH STAFFORD
THO. JAM. LAWRANCE.

GUILDHALL
COFFEE-HOUSE,
LONDON.
January 12th. 1788

A ſmall Pamphlet is encloſed which was lately publiſhed, and which the Committee apprehend may tend to ſuggeſt ſome new Ideas on the Subject.